

Appln. No. 10/628,782  
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 81940.0052  
Customer No. 26021

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Prior to examination of the above referenced application, please amend the claims as indicated herein. Claims 1-4 and 6-24 remain in the application. Claims 1, 10, 18, and 24 are the independent claims. Claims 1 and 2 are amended. Claim 5 is cancelled without prejudice. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification. For example, see page 5, line 18 to page 6, line 9. Also, see page 20, line 18 to page 21, line 6.

The Applicants respectfully submit this Preliminary Amendment along with a Petition to Make Special for the present application under MPEP §708.03, VIII, which is enclosed herewith. Entrance of the amended claims and consideration thereof along with the Petition to Make Special is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Examination and consideration of the application, as amended herein, are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response,  
please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: September 17, 2004

By:   
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